

The CAPITOL HILL MONITOR

AUGUST 1993

MSP ENHANCEMENT PLAN BECOMES REALITY

A CHM EXCLUSIVE!

by Alan Henney

Antenna watchers have noticed during recent weeks that the old style low-band whip antennas (the same type of antenna used by Mayberry's Andy Griffith on his old Ford) are once again being installed on new MSP patrol cars. This is just one aspect of the low-band enhancement package which MSP is implementing this summer to upgrade its aging radio communications system.

After rejecting a proposal to switch the entire state police to 800 MHz, MSP decided, much to the delight of scanner buffs, to remain on the VHF low band. Since MSP inherited seven of the 39 MHz frequencies once used by Baltimore County in addition to three other allocations, this made the decision to stay on low-band more enticing. Now all 21 MSP barracks, for the first time, will dispatch on an individual frequency with CTCSS.

Most barracks will remain on their present frequency, but with the addition of CTCSS (most CTCSS frequencies will be 110.9 Hz). Some barracks do get new frequencies. Pay special attention to 39.26 since the MSP radio shop may temporarily switch selected barracks to this frequency during the transition.

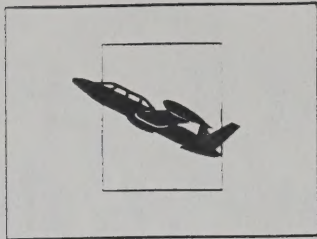
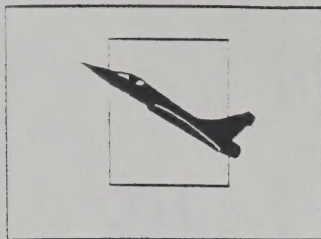
MSP hopes to have the new frequency plan completed later this month or in early September. Keep in mind that, as with all new radio configurations, channel assignments are tentative and may change if the need arises.

In addition to the two statewide channels, 39.1 and 39.26, MSP has designated 39.24, 39.34 and 39.62 as alternate statewide tactical channels. Several spare channels in the enhanced radio, designated as "local assignment" channels, will allow MSP troopers to coordinate with local agencies who also communicate on the VHF low band. Local assignment channels will vary from barrack to barrack.

39.62 HQ Pikesville
39.42 A Waterloo (Jessup)
39.40 B Frederick
39.24 C Cumberland
39.92 D Bel Air
39.78 E Salisbury
39.84 F North East
39.52 G Westminster
39.06 H Waldorf
39.96 I Easton
39.14 J Annapolis
----- K Security (Woodlawn) (CLOSED)
39.30 L Forestville
39.24 M JFK Highway (Perryville)
39.32 N Rockville
39.34 O Hagerstown
39.04 P Glen Burnie
----- Q College Park (CLOSED)
39.44 R Golden Ring (Baltimore)
39.80 S Centreville
39.38 T Leonardtown
39.28 U Prince Frederick
39.60 V Berlin
39.08 W McHenry

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ANDREWS & DAX RIVER AIRSHOW NOTES

by Joe Gallagher

The 1993 airshow schedule hit the throttle on May 14 and 15 as the Joint Services Open House was held at Andrews Air Force base. Crowds were estimated at 40,000 on the 14th and, after highlights were shown on local newscasts that night, Andrews Show Control estimated that 400,000 were on the base for the 15th.

The tarmac featured static displays of numerous aircraft: helicopters, and both propeller-powered and jet aircraft. The featured display again this year was the F117A "Stealth" fighter, complete with a rope which surrounded the aircraft...armed sentries....and the "Restricted Area: Use of deadly force is authorized" sign. In contrast to previous years, when a similar large perimeter surrounded the B-1 bomber, there was only a small area directly under the bomb bay which was inaccessible this year to spectators.

It was unusual, to say the least, to see dozens of spectators watching the afternoon's aerial demonstrations in the shade under this supersonic bomber. While there was no way that anyone could approach the Stealth, many other aircraft were open for all to see. Frequency cards were visible in several aircraft, and these frequencies are included with this article.

In one of the not-widely-reported aspects of the display, a military truck struck and damaged a wing of the B-1 before the base opened to the public on the 15th. By the time the first of the 400,000 spectators arrived at the base, the damage had been covered and painted. The aircraft, however, was grounded until repairs could be made. I was told that the command net on 142.225 featured an angry exchange after the truck struck the B-1.

A Radio Shack PRO43 was used to gather the information for this article, and found that Andrews main security channel was active using DES on 413.0, although not all communications were encrypted. Before the aerial demonstrations began under sunny skies on both days, airspace was closed within five nautical miles of Andrews, from the surface up to 15,000 feet.

Show Control operated on 413.15. Other discoveries included 124.0 for the air-to-air and air-to-PA-system commentary from the two USPA/IRA "Freedom" jets, whose 12-foot length and 17-foot wingspan make them the smallest jets in the world. 124.0 was also used for the Pitts Special Holiday Inn team's biplanes. One of the Pitts team pilots told me that they use 123.42 as their "company frequency," although I did not monitor any

activity there. The open house also featured hot air balloon races shortly after sunrise and before sunset both days, and I was told that 124.75 was used by the chase crew for one of the balloons.

MPs on a traffic detail on "D" street were heard on 141.225 using narrow-band FM. (Edit. Note: Probably DC ARNG MP Battalion) Unknown Andrews-related users were heard on 141.925, 141.3 and 139.645, and on 172.85 where a phone patch was discovered. (Edit. Note: ADW AirEvac Cmd Post). I also was told (but after the conclusion of Saturday's show -- too late to hear anything) that 121.675 was used by the airfield manager. Putting the PRO43 into search mode on Saturday I found activity on 119.925, 128.35 (DCA Appr Cntl), 126.6, 126.05 and 124.025, but unfortunately my notes do not identify the user.

The Air Force Thunderbirds were the headliners for this year's open house, and 413.025 was confirmed for their ground support. 141.85 was used in the AM mode for air-to-air communications within the main four-plane formations, as well as when the two solo aircraft joined the maneuvers. Bill Hardman and Allen Cole earlier confirmed 322.95 as the frequency used for the solo aircraft demonstrations.

When planning for next year: For the best parking, enter the base from the left lane of the main entrance opposite the McDonald's on Allentown Road. I first entered from the gate further south on Allentown Road, and would have had to park a long distance from the display areas on the tarmac. I then tried the main entrance, but I was in the right lane and was detoured right back to the area of that entrance further south.

Traffic entering from the left lane at the main gate was directed to Arnold Road, the street closest to the tarmac. From there traffic was directed to the designated parking area on the tarmac, between Hangar 2 and the tower, which was much closer to the demonstration areas.

Frequency cards from Andrews AFB airshow

Marine jet ARC-51 radio presets (tail number "OG" 9489)

- 265.80 1 Squadron Common
- 340.20 2 Quantico Ground
- 360.20 3 Quantico Tower
- 312.20 4 Quantico Approach
- 229.40 5 Davison Tower
- 257.60 6 Washington Tower
- 289.60 7 Andrews Tower
- 275.80 8 A. F. Ground
- 231.30 9 Pentagon Tower
- 375.00 10 NDV Tac
- 388.00 11 Dulles Tower
- 257.80 12 Civil Tower
- 317.60 13 Wash Center (NYG)
- 322.30 14 Wash App Control (West)
- 269.00 15 Wash App Control (East)

294.50 16 Wash App Control (ADW)
 335.50 17 Andrews Radar
 255.40 18 F.S.S.
 344.60 19 Metro (ADW)
 268.00 20 Wheel House

Marine jet ARC-182 radio presets (tail number "OG" 9489)

142.75 1 Squadron Common
 030.13 2 Squadron Common
 118.60 3 Quantico Tower
 041.93 4 Quantico Tower
 126.20 5 Quantico Approach
 126.30 6 Davison Tower
 120.75 7 Wash Tower
 119.10 8 Wash Tower
 118.40 9 Andrews Tower
 121.80 10 A. F. Ground
 143.10 11 Pentagon Tower
 046.70 12 NDV TAC
 120.10 13 Dulles Tower
 123.?? 14 Wash Center
 119.85 15 Wash APP Control (West)
 124.20 16 Wash APP Control (East)
 119.30 17 Wash APP Control (ADW)/Andrews Radar
 122.20 18 F.S.S.
 122.60 19 F.S.S.
 123.00 20 Guard
 121.50 21 Guard
 040.50 22 Guard

Edit. Note: The tail code "OG" indicates this is an A-4M from VMA-131, a USMCR squadron stationed at Willow Grove, PA. The frequency cards above are the same, however, as HMX-1 from Quantico!

The following frequency presets come from a **US Air Force C-130** "Storm Chaser" Turboprop which is based 60 miles from New Orleans. The C-130 also does anti-drug surveillance and operations in the Atlantic Ocean and in the Gulf of Mexico.

256.00 119.45 1 BIX/GPT ATIS
 275.80 121.80 2 BIX Ground
 320.10 120.75 3 BIX Tower
 287.10 127.50 4 GPT Dep/App (East)
 354.10 124.60 5 GPT Dep/App (West)
 379.80 123.70 6 GPT Tower
 348.60 121.90 7 GPT Ground
 255.40 123.65 8 MOB Flight Service
 243.00 121.50 9 EMERGENCY
 233.00 _____ 10 Shelby RNG
 _____ 122.80 10 HBG UNICOM
 385.90 122.90 11 Inter-plane
 381.00 _____ 12 Accountant
 _____ 130.65 12 Fish Spots
 344.60 _____ 13 BIX Metro

_____ 122.00 13 MOB Flight Service
 369.20 121.10 14 MGM Dep/App
 253.50 118.15 15 MXF Tower
 _____ 118.15 15 Dixie _2 [unreadable]
 289.40 127.15 16 Maxwell Ground
 385.60 123.85 17 LRF Dep/App
 348.40 120.60 18 Little Rock Tower
 271.30 _____ 19 LRF ATIS
 _____ 121.85 19 LRF Ground
 _____ 123.20 20 [can't read it]

NOTE: BIX is Keesler AFB (Biloxi); GPT is Gulfport; MOB is Mobile; Accountant is Keesler (403 AW) Command Post; MXF is Maxwell AFB; LRF is Little Rock AFB.

The next preset card comes from a US Air Force UH-1 helicopter, part of the **Special Air Missions (SAM)**, which performs VIP and medi-vac transports and is stationed at Andrews AFB (**1st Helicopter Squadron, 89th Airlift Wing**).

292.20 141.70 1 Mission Control
 378.10 141.55 2 SAM Command Post
 275.80 121.80 3 ADW Ground
 289.60 118.40 4 ADW Tower
 257.60 120.75 5 DCA Tower
 231.30 143.10 6 Pentagon Tower
 248.20 127.00 7 Tipton Tower
 229.40 126.30 8 Davison Tower
 388.00 120.10 9 Dulles Tower
 241.00 126.20 10 Bluegrass
 237.40 139.00 11 R-site (Marconi)
 268.00 122.70 12 Wheelhouse (Pax)/UNICOM
 287.60 122.80 13 Wheelhouse (Secondary)/UNICOM
 293.50 119.30 14 Wheelhouse (Primary)/ADW Radar
 360.80 128.35 15 ADW Radar
 372.20 122.85 16 PTD/ADW Dispatch
 393.10 127.55 17 ADW Clearance
 344.60 122..85 18 ADW Metro/Flight Watch
 251.05 113.10 19 ADW ATIS
 255.40 122.20 20 FSS (-Radio)

These presets come from a US Marine Corps CH-53 "Super Stallion" helicopter with no frequency usages.

388.20 1
 275.80 2
 255.60 3
 257.80 4
 396.10 5
 369.80 6
 282.20 7
 380.30 8
 323.00 9
 377.10 10
 311.00 11
 364.20 12
 321.00 13

353.80 14
 372.90 15
 239.80 16
 ----- 17
 ----- 18
 255.40 19
 305.20 20



Fly Navy

A week after the airshow at Andrews, the **Patuxent River Naval Air Station** in Lexington Park, held their annual Air Expo and airshow, celebrating 50 years in existence. The Navy's Blue Angels had been scheduled to perform, but their participation was canceled shortly before the Andrews open house as part of the results of the Tail-hook scandal.

The USPA/IRA "Freedom" jet again appeared, this time using 122.925 for air-to-PA-system commentary and for ground-to-air communications. 122.925 also was used by the Bud Light 200 propeller-powered plane for ground-to-air communications so the pilot could perform in synchronization with the script and for air-to-ground commentary. 122.925 was very popular at Pax River, since it was again used for ground-to-air for Bob Hosking's "Otto" helicopter, which performed a number of stunts. Commentary from Julie Clark's Mopar plane was on 123.15. 139.1 was monitored as Patuxent River Airshow Control which coordinated non-aircraft-related activity.

Another discovery was "Expo 1," on what appeared to be a mini-trunked system on 416.95 and 412.75 (with occasional DES for MPs). EMS units, also identifying as "Expo 1," communicated on 419.675. In the absence of the Blue Angels, the demonstration by an F14 "Tomcat" was extended much longer than usual and closed the show. Crowd estimates were placed at about 40,000 and were said to be well below normal in light of the Blue Angels cancellation, and perhaps it was just as well, since base security made it clear that all civilians were to be off the base within an hour after the end of the Tomcat's demonstration.

Frequency cards from Pax River NAS airshow

Presets from a **Marine CH-53 helicopter** on static display.

236.3 1 Royal Flush Ops/Maintenance
 276.2 2 Pax River ATIS/Homer
 336.4 3 Pax River Ground
 344.4 4 Pax River Tower
 384.4 5 Pax River Clearance
 314.0 6 Pax River Departure

281.8 7 Pax River Approach
 354.8 8 Pax River Advisory
 270.8 9 Pax River Advisory
 362.6 10 Pax River Ground-Controlled Approach
 318.8 11 Pax River Ground-Controlled Approach
 348.0 12 Pax River Ground-Controlled Approach
 258.0 13 Webster Tower (40.55)
 291.3 14 Echo Control (318.65)
 381.7 15 Echo Control (353.15)
 321.8 16 Echo Control (376.85)
 369.9 17 Advisory Check-in
 250.3 18 NW Area
 353.3 19 [unreadable] (NW Laboratories) Projects
 383.7 20 Ship Ground Station

US Coast Guard SAR helicopter UHF radio presets (dated 10/27/89).

264.00 1 Tester Base
 276.20 2 Pax River ATIS/UHF Homer
 336.40 3 Pax River Ground (120.6)
 344.40 4 Pax River Tower (123.65)
 384.40 5 Pax River Clearance (120.6)
 356.20 6 Pax River Metro
 281.80 7 Pax River Approach Control (120.05)
 354.80 8 Pax River Advisory
 270.80 9 Pax River Advisory
 362.60 10 Pax River Ground-Controlled Approach
 318.80 11 Pax River Ground-Controlled Approach
 348.00 12 Pax River Ground-Controlled Approach
 358.00 13 Webster Tower (126.2)
 339.10 14 Dover Approach Tower
 257.30 15 Norfolk Approach (118.9)
 294.50 16 Washington Approach Control (118.3)
 289.60 17 Andrews Tower
 340.20 18 Navy Tower (Primary)
 360.20 19 Navy Tower (Secondary)
 255.40 20 Flight Service (122.2)
 243.00 GD Guard (121.5)
 289.60 -- Andrews Tower (118.4)
 241.00 -- Army Tower
 257.60 -- Bethesda Nav Hosp. "Mercy Control" (140.275)
 326.30 -- Echo/Wallops Control
 285.20 -- Force (Water Bug)
 253.50 -- Langley Tower (125.1)
 386.80 -- NAF Washington DC (Navy Ops) (122.85)
 340.20 -- NAS Norfolk Tower (124.3)
 250.30 -- NW Area Advisory
 283.10 -- Strike (Salty Dog)
 236.30 -- RW (Royal Flush)
 341.10 -- VX-1 (Eye Sight)
 337.90 -- VXN-8 (World Traveler)
 394.30 -- Wallops Tower (126.5)
 269.00 -- Washington Approach Control (124.2)
 257.60 -- Washington Tower (120.75)
 282.80 -- International Primary (123.1)
 122.90 -- Civil Air Patrol (122.9)
 381.80 -- Coast Guard Command Net
 278.10 -- U.S. SAR Control

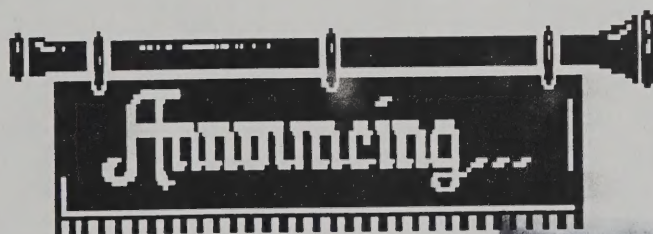
US Coast Guard SAR helicopter VHF-AM radio presets (dated 10/27/89).

118.400 1 Andrews Tower (289.6)
140.275 2 Bethesda Naval Hosp. "Mercy Control" (257.6)
120.600 3 Pax River Ground (336.4)
123.650 4 Pax River Tower (344.4)
120.600 5 Pax River Clearance (384.4)
125.100 6 Langley Tower (253.5)
120.050 7 Pax River Approach Control (281.8)
122.800 8 NAF Washington DC, Navy Ops (386.8)
124.300 9 NAS Norfolk Tower (340.2)
140.725 10 Pax River Hospital "Ajax Mercy"
126.500 11 Wallops Tower (394.3)
124.200 12 Washington Approach Control (269.0)
126.200 13 Webster Tower (358.0)
120.750 14 Washington Tower (257.6)
118.900 15 Norfolk Approach (257.3)
118.300 16 Washington Approach Control (294.5)
123.100 17 International Primary (282.8)
122.900 18 Civil Air Patrol (122.9)
121.500 EM Guard (243.0)
122.200 20 Flight Service (255.4)

US Coast Guard SAR helicopter Syncom 10 VHF-FM presets (dated 10/27/89).

156.600 G1 Ch. 12 Pax River Ops, Rescue Base, Navy Outline
156.800 G2 Ch. 16 International Distress, Safety, Hailing
156.300 1 Ch. 6 Coast Guard SAR on-scene
157.100 3 Ch. 22A Coast Guard Common

Many thanks to Joe for taking time to write this extensive article and for transcribing the excellent military frequency cards!



Bits and Pieces and Stuff

STATUE OF FREEDOM RESTORATION

On Mother's Day, Bubba, a Sikorsky Skycrane helicopter, also known as "163-Alpha-Charlie," removed the 19-foot 18,000-pound Statue of Freedom from the US Capitol dome.

Erickson Aircrane, a private contractor who moved the 130-year-old statue, is scheduled to replace the statue in a few weeks (probably in September) during a special ceremony.

DCFD will have a foam unit task force on stand-by. Replacement of the statue will likely be during the early morning hours. A CHM member, who asked to remain anonymous, provides us with the frequencies for Erickson Aircrane. Other frequencies of interest include the following.

119.100 DCA Tower
120.750 DCA Tower
122.750 Air-to-Air (also try 123.05)
151.625 Erickson Aircrane [167.9 Hz] (primary)
151.925 Erickson Aircrane [167.9 Hz] (secondary)
154.235 DCFD F2 (also try 154.19)
162.250 US Capitol PD F7/F8
164.600 US Capitol PD F5/F6
164.625 US Capitol PD F2/F4
164.800 US Capitol PD F1/F3
166.725 US Park PD F1
166.850 US Park PD F4
167.075 US Park PD F3
414.875 Architect of the Capitol F1/F2 (two-way)
416.150 Architect of the Capitol (paging)

FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE MAKES CHANGES

Fire Marshal Sean McClanahan provides us with the new channel plan for the Fairfax County Fire Department - Virginia's largest fire department! All CTCSS frequencies are 94.8 Hz.

460.575 F1 Dispatch
460.600 F2 Fire Marshals, EMS Tactical & Alternate
460.625 F3 Tactical (north) 460.550 F4 Tactical (west)
460.525 F5 Tactical (south)

YES, THOSE ARE CABLE REPAIR TECHS ON THE CITY OF EASTON'S PUBLIC WORKS CHANNEL!

Now we know why cable rates in Easton are the lowest in the area. Easton is the only town in Maryland to run and operate its own cable system. Listen for them on 153.41 and 153.545 [both 131.8 Hz].

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEXT CHM MEETING DATE

The next CHM meeting is scheduled for Saturday October 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the District's Takoma library, 416 Cedar Street, NW. We plan to have a couple

guest speakers on hand. The Takoma Library is in a safe and quiet NW Washington residential neighborhood, near the Takoma Metro station. Library staff assure us plenty of parking is available on the street during weekends. Please note, this is NOT the City of Takoma Park library!

In other news, four members have expressed interest in serving on a CHM board to create club bylaws. If you're interested in serving, please contact Alan to be notified of related activities.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

The College Park Airfair is scheduled for Mid-September. This is your chance to meet WLTT's famous traffic reporter, Walt Starling, who departs daily from College Park. This entertaining event is a must for both aircraft and scanner buffs. Call 301-864-5844 to find out more.

Professional Law Enforcement Services & Equipment will sponsor the annual "Cruiser Competition" during October at its store at 4551 Rhode Island Ave in Brentwood, Md. Date and time to be announced. Last year most every major local jurisdiction had a patrol car on display. The IRS, DEA and US Marshals also exhibited several exotic undercover vehicles with disguised antennas! This is an excellent opportunity to get a close-up look at area law enforcement vehicles (including their radios) and to speak with the officers who drive them. Patch collectors are welcome! Call 301-779-6919 for details.

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues (which includes 12 issues) are \$8. Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney.

Meeting Coordinators:

Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-902-6241)
Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

Capitol Hill Monitor's Scanner/Shortwave Net:

Listen for the CHM net, hosted by Ken Fowler, at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month on 146.91 MHz.



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